

4th March 1925]

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Just I want to know from the Government whether the intention of the Government is to prevent the depressed classes whenever they want to pass through agraaharam roads on account of those being short cuts."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have nothing to add to the terms of the Government Order."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I do not quite understand it."

Kalpathy car festival disturbance.

* 301 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a Malabar Special Force came to Palghat and they were stationed to keep the Ezhuvas, the members of the untouchable classes, out during the time of the recent Kalpathy car festival disturbance; and

(b) if the Government have no information with reference to clause (a), whether they will call for the information?

A.—A section of the Malappuram Special Force was stationed at Kalpathy to prevent a breach of the peace.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know why a special force was necessary when the people belonging to the depressed classes wanted to pass through highways? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The answer is already on the printed paper. A special force was brought in to prevent a possible breach of the peace."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I know whether the special force was brought there before the commencement of the festival or after the order was passed? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" On that I have no particular information, but I take it that it was before the order was passed."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Did the Government or the Divisional Officer anticipate that a breach would take place? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Divisional Officer had reasons to think that a breach might take place."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" Is it not a fact that a contingent of reserve police force at the time of the car feast is brought every year to guard the Kalpathy agraaharam? "

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" If the depressed class people behind the Kalpathy agraaharam street want to pass through that street on business and if they are prevented from doing so, will the Government come to their rescue? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not think the Government Order has gone into that detail. It is in general terms."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" The other day it was stated when an Ezhuva from behind the Kalpathy agraaharam wanted to enter the road, the

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only road, he was prevented from doing so. Suppose the depressed class people want to do likewise in future also, and if they are prevented, will the Government come to their rescue?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid that is a hypothetical question. I am not responsible for statements made outside this Council."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know whether Government can interfere with the religious rites of Hindus, especially as this is a matter which concerns a festival?"

Forests.

Panchayats for forest subordinates.

* 302 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report called for by him from the Chief Conservator of Forests in connexion with interpellation No. 1273—vide Council Proceedings, dated 3rd December 1924—has been received; and

(b) if so, whether he will be pleased to lay it on the table of the House?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government do not propose to lay the report on the table. The information asked for by the hon. Member is appended.*

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"With reference to the answer given in the latter portion of clause (c), may I know how and why it is not possible to bring under one control both village forest panchayats and class V panchayats?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"My hon. Friend's question is why the Forest department should not have control over the ordinary panchayats. The answer to that is that Government deliberately took away the ordinary panchayats from the control of the Forest officers and it was only the other day that I informed the House that this was done on account of the fact that this House and the people are said not to trust the Forest officers."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"If the work has been handed over to a special panchayat staff, is it not a fact that the ordinary staff would have consequently very much less work to do?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I do not think that can yet be said. It is not a question of handing over certain work. This is entirely new work. In due course we expect as the result of the constitution of the forest panchayats to arrange for the abolition of a large number of forest divisions."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"I am told there are a large number of people who have no work."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Such cases will be dealt with appropriately and any reduction that is possible will be made."

* Printed as Appendix I on pages 780-781 infra.